

>> SPRING SPORTS ISSUE >>

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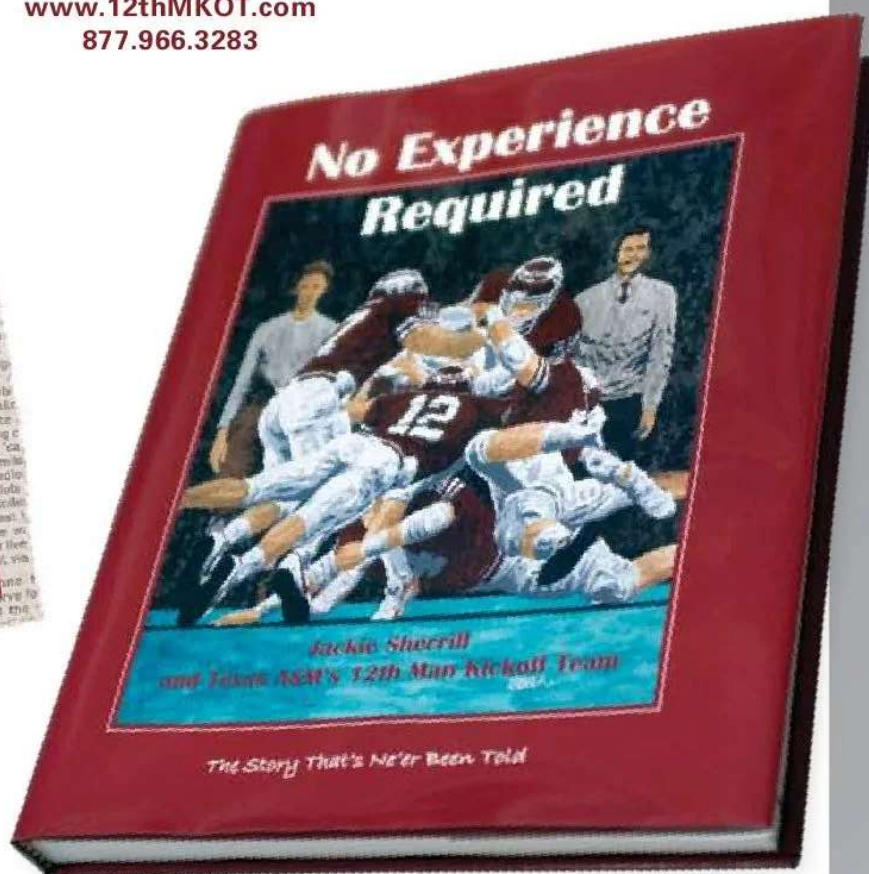
Dancing with the Dance Team,
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BY STEVE HUNT



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On the Cover: Texas A&M pitcher Alex Wilson on Olsen Field. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

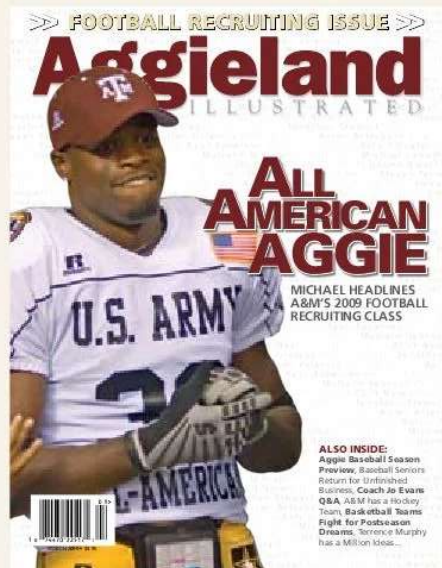
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The AI crew "hard at work" while planning this issue over lunch at Mi Cocina in College Station: Rob '88, Jeremy '04, Stacey '05, Katie '09, Jason '01 and Brian '01.

Howdy!

For us Aggie football fanatics, it doesn't get any better than a Saturday at Kyle Field in the fall. But if you can't get enough Aggie sports, this time of the year is tough to beat.

For starters, the Aggie basketball teams just took us for a wild roller coaster ride into March Madness. You can get a different perspective of their journey from our feature on page 27 – "Dancing with the Aggie Dance Team."

Meanwhile, some of our favorite spring sports – baseball, softball, tennis and golf – are in full swing and each program has the potential to compete for Big 12 and NCAA titles.

Speaking of NCAA titles, Texas A&M has played host to a record number of NCAA Championships this spring with one more still to go. The indoor track and field and men's and women's swimming and diving championships were held in AggieLand in March, while the men's and women's tennis championships will be here in May. And about the time this issue comes out, the Texas A&M equestrian team will be in Waco, aiming to collect another national title. Check out our "equestrian cribs" feature on page 34 for a look inside the lives of four freshman riders.

And finally, to top it all off, we still have a heavy dose of football – spring football that is. The best part about spring football is that we can't lose. The worst part is that if the offense is doing good, we find ourselves worrying about the defense and vice versa. My solution is to look for progress and improvement on both sides, and you don't have to look far. Check out our "12 Things to Know About Spring Football Practice" on page 43 for more.

Indeed, this may not be my favorite time of year, but it's definitely a close second. So get out to Olsen, Mitchell, Kyle or the Aggie Softball Complex if you can and enjoy some of the best of what AggieLand has to offer.

Gig'em Aggies!

Brian '01

P.S. You can order back issues of *AggieLand Illustrated* on our web site. Visit www.aggielandillustrated.com/archive.html for more info or to order now!

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snapshot

home court advantage

Missouri's Marcus Denmon attempts a free throw during the first half while the 12th Man does their best to make him miss. The largest crowd of the season helped the Aggies defeat the 15th-ranked Tigers for their sixth straight victory, securing their ticket to the Big Dance. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.









laying out

Freshman centerfielder Kelsea Orsak makes a jaw-dropping diving catch against Arizona. The Wildcats were up 5-2 in the top of the sixth and ready to strike again before Orsak's amazing catch ended the inning. The play sparked a comeback victory by the Aggies in extra innings, 6-5. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.



snapshot

the aggie drill

Sophomore linebacker Cole Graybill and freshman tight end K.J. Williams face off in the Aggie Drill during spring football practice. At the beginning of each practice, the team competes in the Aggie Drill – a one-on-one battle between offensive and defensive players.

Photo by Brian Davis '01.





TEXAS A&M

23



JOSH CARTER

2005-2009



so long carter

Josh Carter takes it all in during Senior Day (facing page) before leaving the Reed Arena floor for the final time. "I told myself I wasn't going to cry, but I cried before I even got out there." Carter leaves as the winningest player in school history and is the first Aggie to play in four NCAA Tournaments. Photos by Jason McConnell '01.

SPRINTING OUT OF THE GATES

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

Didn't we just recap the recruiting class of 2009 in the last issue? Don't look now, but the class of 2010 is nearly complete as well. Just two short months after national signing day, Mike Sherman and the Texas A&M coaching staff have already assembled over half of their 2010 haul.

As of press time, an astonishing 14 seniors-to-be have given their verbal commitment to play for the Aggies. In fact, if you're reading this article after the spring football game, there's a good chance this recruiting section is already out of date.

While ten of the 14 commitments come on the offensive side of the ball, it's the defensive targets that will define the class of 2010's success. We'll take a closer look at the defenders the Aggies have targeted in the next issue. For now, let's focus on the impressive offensive group thus far.

	jameill SHOWERS Quarterback Shoemaker (Killeen, TX) HT: 6-2 WT: 205 5A Honorable Mention All-State
	matt JOECKEL Quarterback Arlington (Arlington, TX) HT: 6-4 WT: 220 Big, strong-armed quarterback
	clay HONEYCUTT Quarterback Dickinson (Dickinson, TX) HT: 6-2 WT: 185 Father, Lynn, was an Aggie QB

QUARTERBACK

In 2009, the Aggies didn't sign a single quarterback prospect, so it shouldn't come as a surprise to see not one, not two, but three quarterbacks already committed in the class of 2010. Killeen Shoemaker's **Jameill Showers**, Dickinson's **Clay Honeycutt**, and Arlington's **Matt Joeckel** have each pledged to don the maroon and white. Honeycutt is cut from the same mold as Ryan Tannehill, in that he can probably split time at a number of positions while getting QB reps. Showers and Joeckel are athletic enough to play a variety of positions as well, but each of the highly touted gunslingers will get long looks at quarterback before a position change would be considered.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Whoever manages to win the future starting nod at quarterback will be well protected on the edges. The Aggies are off to an outstanding start along the offensive line in the 2010 recruiting race, picking up early commitments from Allen's **Cedric Ogbuehi**, Katy's **Shep Klink**, Denton's **Garrett Gramling** and Arlington's **Luke Joeckel**. Joeckel is the early headliner of the group, choosing the Aggies over programs such as Oklahoma, LSU and Alabama. He is scheduled to play in next January's Under Armour All-America game and also happens to be the twin brother of quarterback commit Matt. Ogbuehi was named first-team all-state at class 5A champion Allen High School last year, and will join up with his former teammates and 2009 signees Steven Terrell and Uzoma Nwachukwu once again in Aggieland. Rumor has it Ogbuehi will participate in the Army All-American game in January as well. All four of the o-line commits project as tackles, but Gramling and Klink could easily transition to guard if necessary.

If signing day were today, this offensive line haul would already rank as one of the top units to ink with A&M in nearly two decades. Fortunately, there's still plenty of time to add one more elite prospect to put this class in the category of all-time greats. Jake Matthews – the son of NFL

	luke JOECKEL Offensive Lineman Arlington (Arlington, TX) HT: 6-6 WT: 270 4-5A First Team All-District
	cedric OGBUEHI Offensive Lineman Allen (Allen, TX) HT: 6-5 WT: 260 5A First Team All-State
	garrett GRAMLING Offensive Lineman Denton Ryan (Denton, TX) HT: 6-6 WT: 305 Could be a monster at tackle
	shep KLINKE Offensive Lineman Katy (Katy, TX) HT: 6-6 WT: 290 Has long arms and a great frame

Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews – is set to make an early commitment this spring, and has narrowed his choices down to Texas A&M, Texas, Oklahoma and USC, with the Aggies and Horns looking like the two teams to beat. While it might look like an uphill battle on paper, the highly touted lineman's older brother, Kevin, is the current starting center for the Aggies, and former A&M quarterback/current Houston Texans Head Coach Gary Kubiak just recently named Bruce to his NFL staff. Indeed, if the Aggies manage to haul in Matthews, this year's class of offensive linemen would classify as absolutely epic.

	ben MALENA Running Back Cedar Hill (Cedar Hill, TX) HT: 5-10 WT: 200 5A Second Team All-State
--	--

RUNNING BACK

At running back, the Aggies have picked up a pledge from one of their top overall targets in 5A powerhouse Cedar Hill's **Ben Malena**. Malena, a short, powerful back with outstanding vision and balance, amassed over 2,200 yards as a junior, piling up 35 touchdowns along the way. Malena, who chose the Ags over

Texas Tech, Wisconsin, Minnesota and others, will likely be joined by one other running back in this class. Denison's D.J. Jones, another power back, and Arlington Lamar's Ja'Terian Douglas, a speed back, both plan on being in attendance for the Aggies' spring game, and could very well be in a race to secure the last running back spot in the class.

	malcolm KENNEDY Wide Receiver Cayuga (Cayuga, TX) HT: 6-0 WT: 195 1A Second Team All-State
	lekendrick WILLIAMS Athlete Sharpstown (Sharpstown, TX) HT: 5-9 WT: 175 Electrifying kick/punt returner

WIDE RECEIVER

Malcolm Kennedy from tiny 1A powerhouse Cayuga is the only true wide receiver to commit so far. A 6-0, 190-pound superb athlete, Kennedy dominates the lowest classification of high school ranks on both sides of the football. His combination of great hands and an outstanding leaping ability reminds us of Navasota's Brandal Jackson – a member of the class of 2009. Sharpstown athlete **LeKendrick Williams** is penciled in as a wide receiver in this class, but this speedster is expected to leave his mark as a return man at A&M. The 5-9 Williams is slippery and elusive in the return game, taking back an astonishing eleven kicks and punts to the house for touchdowns as a junior. The Ags will likely take one or two more receivers in the class of 2010, in addition to a tight end.

Clearly, the Aggies are in a good position to close out the class of 2010 on the offensive side of the ball in a big way, with one or two more difference makers still potentially looming on the horizon. With more and more prospects making decisions prior to their senior year, the spring and summer months will be action-packed as the blue chips continue to fall. **A**

For complete coverage of Texas A&M recruiting, contact Billy Liucci of the *Maroon & White Report* at (979) 690-7361 or by visiting www.agsports.com

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With their backs against the wall, the Aggie men's basketball team won their final six conference games – including dominating victories over Texas and Missouri – earning a fourth consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament. In the Big Dance, the Ags took care of BYU in a rare opening game rematch before falling to top-seeded and eventual Final Four team UConn. Josh Carter will be greatly missed, but virtually everyone else will be back next year, meaning A&M should be among the top in the Big 12.



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PLAYER OF THE YEAR

F Blake Griffin, Oklahoma

BEST DEFENDER

G Derrick Roland, Texas A&M

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

G Dash Harris, Texas A&M

MOST IMPROVED

F Chinemelu Elonu, Texas A&M

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike Anderson, Missouri

ALLBIG12TEAM

G Sherron Collins, Kansas
G/F James Anderson, Oklahoma State
G/F Josh Carter, Texas A&M
F DeMarre Carroll, Missouri
F Blake Griffin, Oklahoma*

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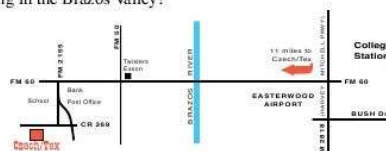
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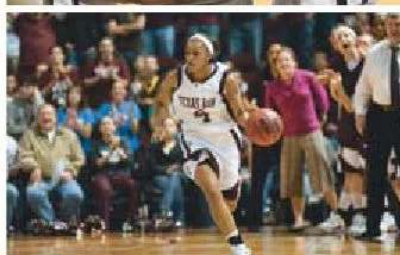
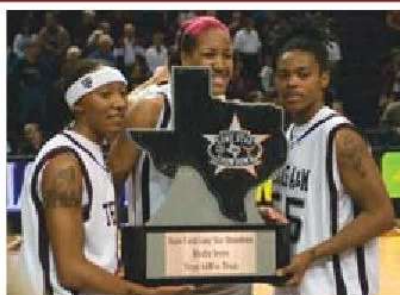
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Led by three sensational seniors – Danielle Gant, La Toya Micheaux and Takia Starks – the women's basketball team had another memorable season in 2008-09. The Ags were not able to win a Big 12 title for the first time in three seasons, but Starks' game-winning shot against then-No. 1 Oklahoma and the subsequent storming of the court by Aggie fans are moments that will be cherished for years to come. The Aggies advanced for their second-straight Sweet 16 appearance, but came up short against Arizona State to end the season.



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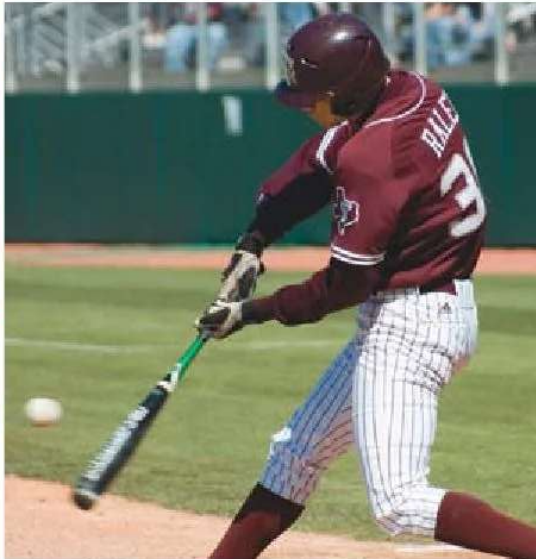
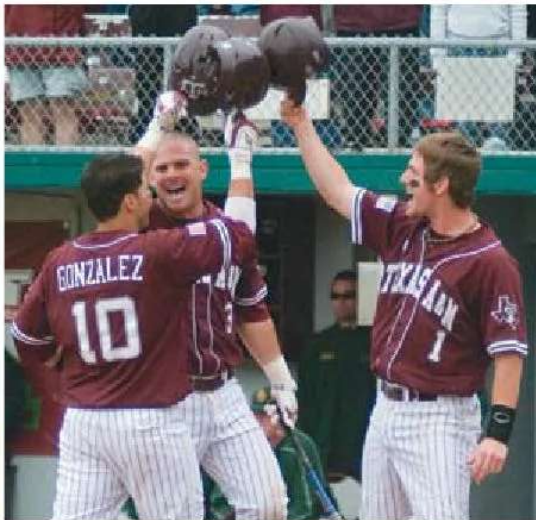


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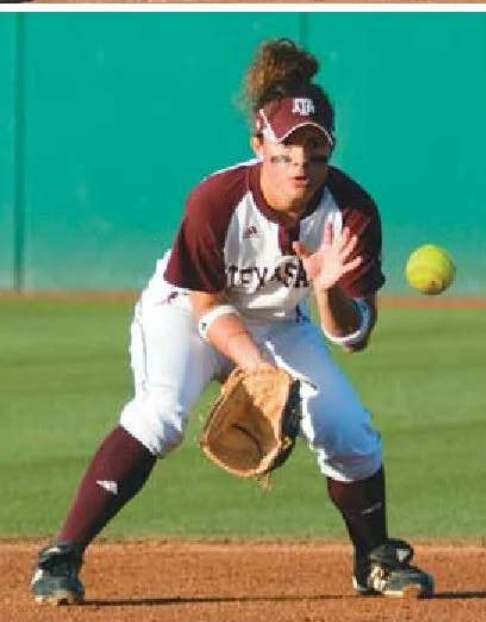
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The 2009 college baseball season began with lofty expectations for the Texas A&M ballclub. Unfortunately, some nagging injuries to the pitching staff and a lack of timely hitting at the plate have plagued the Aggies thus far. Fortunately, there is still a lot of baseball to be played and the Ags have plenty of talent to get things going. If the team gets hot at the right time, this still could be a very special season in Aggieland.



scoreboard | softball | tennis | golf



(softball) The new-look Aggie softball team has had its share of ups and downs so far this season. Despite their struggles, the team is still ranked in the top 25 and in the middle of the Big 12 standings. This program knows how to compete for championships, so don't count these girls out just yet. **(golf)** The Texas A&M men's and women's golf teams prepare for postseason play, which begins in late April. **(tennis)** With the regular season winding down, the men's and women's tennis teams are in position to battle for Big 12 titles.



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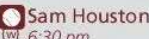

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Easter 12	13	14	15	16	Parent's Weekend 17	Parent's Weekend 18
			 	 	 	      
PARENTS' WEEKEND 2009 EVENTS (APR 17-19) FRIDAY, APRIL 17 Ring Day All Day (Clayton Williams Alumni Center) Aggie Mom's Boutique 10 am - 4:30 pm (Reed Arena) MSC Variety Show 7 pm (Rudder Auditorium) Parent Programs Reception 10:30 pm - 12 am (Cain Hall) Midnight Yell Practice 12 am (Kyle Field)  SATURDAY, APRIL 18 Aggie Mom's Boutique 9 am - 5 pm (Reed Arena) Bevo Burn BBQ 11 am - 2 pm (Duncan Field) Maroon & White Game 2 pm (Kyle Field) Singing Cadets Concert 7:30 pm (Rudder Auditorium) SUNDAY, APRIL 19 All University Awards Ceremony 9:30 am (Rudder Hall)						
Parent's Weekend 19	20	Muster 21	22	23	24	25
   			 	 	   	    
26	27	28	29	30	May 1	2
   		  		  	 	  
						
10	11	12			14	15
  					 	    
					Graduation 15	Graduation 16
					    	    



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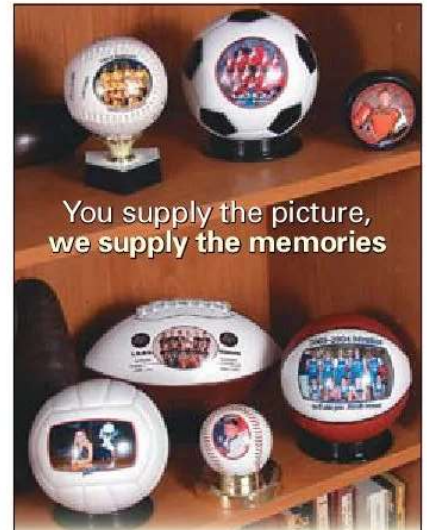
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dancing with the DANCE TEAM

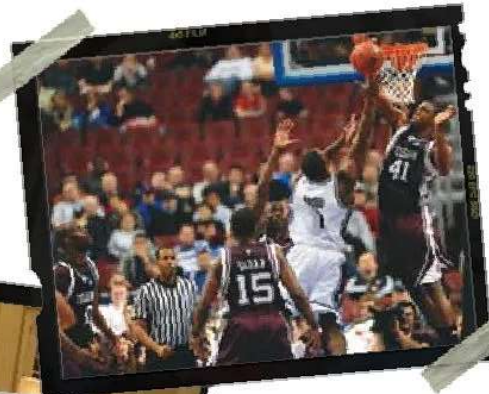
Aggie basketball's journey in the NCAA tournament from a different perspective
BY THE AGGIE DANCE TEAM

Tuesday, March 17

» Traveling to Philadelphia »

LAURA SCHUTZ
AMY ROEBIE
HEATHER BOERKE

Today has been a long day of traveling. We all had to be packed up and met at Reed Arena at 2 p.m. We then loaded the buses with the Hullabaloo band, yell leaders and coaches' families and headed towards Easternwood airport to get on our chartered flight. We went through our own security, loaded the plane, and waited for the men's basketball team and coaches to arrive and load the plane. Our flight was about three hours long, and when we got close to Philadelphia, we all noticed how amazing the city lights were. Once getting off the plane, there were three chartered buses waiting for us to take us to the hotel. As we drove through downtown Philadelphia, we were all getting very excited after seeing the historical buildings, shops and stores. We arrived at the Radisson Plaza Warwick, an amazing historic plaza right in the middle of downtown Philly. We all received our rooms and went to grab dinner nearby. We looked forward to a day of sightseeing and the basketball game against BYU on Thursday.



Wednesday, March 18

» Sightseeing in Philadelphia »

LAURA SCHUTZ
AMY ROEBIE
HEATHER BOERKE

This morning we had practice at 9 a.m. for the game tomorrow. After practice, we grabbed a quick breakfast at the hotel and got ready for a full day exploring the town. We left the hotel around 11 a.m. and headed toward the area of town called "Old City" Philadelphia. We had Independence Hall tour tickets at 1 p.m., and we also wanted to see the Liberty Bell. Both sites were incredible to see in person. After our tour, we all decided we needed to try an authentic Philly Cheese Steak from Jim's – a place we heard about from various locals. The steaks were excellent! After lunch, we visited Ben Franklin's grave, Betsy Ross' house, City Hall and the Reading Terminal Market. City Hall was absolutely breathtaking! After miles of walking, we decided to visit Philadelphia's Museum of Art with the three yell leaders on the trip – Casey, Ben and Lans. It was really fun to run up the Rocky steps and stand in his footprints at the top. We were so tired from walking, so we decided to try and catch a taxi back to the hotel – not an easy task! It took us quite a few tries to flag one down, but we finally did. After returning to the hotel and resting for a while, we had a dance team dinner at a local Italian restaurant. It happened to be one of the girls' – Allison's – 21st birthday so we were able to celebrate with her. After dinner, we headed back to the hotel to rest up for the game.



Thursday, March 19

» Men Round 1: BYU »

LAURA SCHUTZ
AMY ROEBIE
HEATHER BOERKE

Today we woke up excited to BTHO BYU, and we sent the players off at 10:30 a.m. We practiced in the hotel before the bus came at 11:30 a.m. to take us to the game. The traffic in Philadelphia was really chaotic, so we did not arrive until right around noon – just 30 minutes before game time! As soon as we arrived and went through security, we dropped off our bags, and it was about time to head onto the court! Dancing at the Wachovia Center – where the 76ers play – was a really great experience, and the game was amazing. Sitting courtside, watching our men play hard and taking the lead was incredible. We all love dancing at basketball games, and being here with our fans representing A&M was such an opportunity. We were all so excited when the game ended and we had won! We were pumped for the next game, which would most likely be against UConn. After the game, we changed and headed to dinner. Then it was time to study a little in preparation for returning back to school.



Friday, March 20

>> A Day to Rest and Relax >>

LAURA SCHUTZ
AMY ROBERIE
HEATHER BOERKE

Friday was another day of sightseeing and relaxing, but before we got to do that, we had to practice again to prepare for tomorrow's game. After practice, we all went across the street to get breakfast and then met back at the hotel. Some of the other dance team girls went to visit Rocky's statue, but since we had already been there, we stayed in to relax and study. We had been on the go for the past several weeks with the Big 12 tournament in Oklahoma City and now the NCAA's in Philly, so relaxing was really what we needed. When everyone arrived back at the hotel, we visited for a while and then some of us ate at a nearby Ruby Tuesday's. After dinner, we all met and watched the NCAA tournament games on TV. I can't wait for the game tomorrow against UConn – it will be a huge game and I really hope we win and pull off an upset!

Saturday, March 21

>> Men Round 2: UConn >>

LAURA SCHUTZ
AMY ROBERIE
HEATHER BOERKE

This morning, we woke up early to get ready and packed our bags to head back to College Station after the game. We sent the team off again and prepared to head over to the Wachovia Center. Today, we received a police escort and arrived at the game much faster. We were ready to BTHO UConn! We practiced in the warm up area and met a few of the UConn cheerleaders as well. We, along with the band and yell leaders, were so excited about the big game as we headed onto the court. There were quite a few UConn fans there, as it was much closer to home for them. Unfortunately, even though the Aggies played well and never gave up, we lost. It was a tough game because we were playing a top seed, but we were so glad we had made it this far. After the game, they took us back to the hotel to grab a quick dinner before heading to the airport for our 10:30 p.m. flight. We ended up waiting on our bus for about an hour before they took us through security. We arrived back at Reed Arena about 1 a.m. It was a long and tiring day, but it was such a rewarding trip. The eight of us had a great time and were so proud of our men's basketball team!



Friday, March 20

LAUREN RICHARDS

>> Traveling to South Bend >>

Today we left for South Bend, Indiana. Once we got to the plane everyone had to go through security and our bags had to be put on the plane, which usually isn't a problem. But this time our bags took up too much room, or were too heavy because they had trouble fitting them all underneath the plane. Some of the bags were brought up into the cabin of the plane, but others still didn't fit. Eventually they got it figured out and we got to take off. We had to stop about half-way to refuel the plane, so the whole ride took a little over 2 hours. When we landed we got onto a bus that took us to our hotel – the Waterford Estates Lodge. The six dance team girls were right across the hall from each other, which made it easy for us to hang out together. We all went to eat dinner at Carabba's and the food was really good. After dinner we came back to the hotel to unpack. A little later we wanted to get dessert, so the dance team and the two yell leaders that were with us went across the street to Steak and Shake. We stayed there for an hour or two playing games, making hats out of our menus, talking and having fun. After a while we went back to the hotel and went to bed.



Sunday, March 22

LAUREN RICHARDS

>> Women Round 1: Evansville >>

Today we had the first women's game at 12 p.m. The spirit walk for the team was at 10:15 a.m., and our bus left around 10:45 a.m. Once we got to the arena, we had to get our bags checked and show them our ID. After we had practiced and finished getting ready, we headed down to the arena floor for the game. The game was pretty exciting, but we ended up winning by about 30 points. After the game we went to Chili's for dinner. Once the bus took us back to our hotel we all took really long naps. After napping we had another practice to start getting ready for the next game. After practice some of us decided to study a little bit and others just relaxed. A little later, a few of us decided to go to IHop to get a snack before we went to bed. We had a cab take us home, and on the way, the cab driver took us to see "The Grotto" on the Notre Dame campus at night. It was so beautiful; there were a ton of candles lit and people all around praying. Once we got back to the hotel we all hung out and sang Disney songs for a few hours before going to sleep.



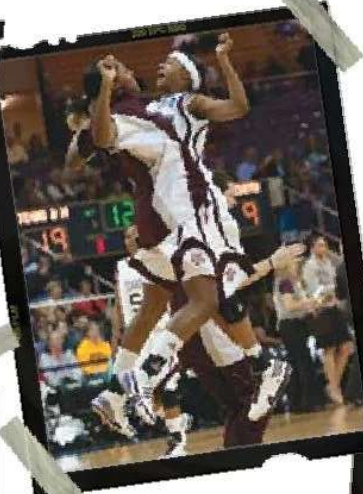
Saturday, March 21

CATHREN LEPORI

>> Sightseeing in Chicago >>

Our first full day was probably the highlight of our trip. We traveled to Chicago and spent a wonderful day in the windy city. We went on an unsuccessful hunt for the city's best pizza, had a blast using the subway system to get around town and went on a tour of Sears tower. We spent the afternoon in Millennium Park where we couldn't resist playing a harmless prank. There is this giant jelly bean shaped metal, reflective structure that everyone was taking pictures around and exploring. With the large crowd and being a former member of fish camp, I thought it would be the perfect location for a "fake proposal." Within 20 seconds of me sharing my idea, Weston Wilcox, a junior yell leader, was down on one knee in a huge crowd of people fake proposing to Brittany Hawthorne, a junior dance team member. His fake tears and touching words had drawn a huge crowd and a captive audience that was convinced this was the real deal. The bystanders had made a HUGE circle around them and onlookers were even taking pictures. Luckily, Brittany said yes and there was a huge explosion of cheers and clapping. It was one of the funniest things I have ever seen. After all the excitement, we went to Dave and Busters to celebrate the happy fake couple and watch the men take on UConn.

My friend Chris – a Notre Dame football player – had warned me that there wasn't much to do in South Bend, but it just so happened that their once a month "hip hop night" at Legends – their on campus "night club" – was going to take place the weekend we were there. The city of South Bend is a totally different environment than College Station. There is literally no night life, so this "hip hop" night is one of the most anticipated events each month. Each Notre Dame student is only allowed two guests, but through several of Chris' friends we were all able to get on the list. The event started at midnight and when we got there at 11:30 there was already a line down the block and around the corner. Lucky for us, Chris' friends were holding our spot at the front of the line. There were three different checkpoints we had to go through – it was outrageous. At one they checked our ID and made sure we were on "the list." At the next we presented our ID and got a wristband. Finally, at the end, our hands were stamped and we were free to enter. Needless to say, it was a great night and a wonderful experience to see they do things.



Monday, March 23

LAUREN RICHARDS

>> Visiting Notre Dame >>

Today the bus took us to the mall for a few hours to walk around and eat. We went into several jewelry stores to look at rings for fun. We also ended up playing with a puppy in the pet store that was adorable. It was called a puggle and was even more rowdy than the "Marley and Me" dog. After we played with the puppy for about 30 minutes, we went to a kiosk with people giving massages. Cathren, Brittany and I all got 10-minute massages for \$12 that were amazing. Then we went to the food court to have lunch. The next stop was the Notre Dame campus for a tour. The campus was beautiful. It was very interesting to learn about another university and see their campus. We even got to see the infamous "Touchdown Jesus." Once we got back, some of us took naps and some of us just rested. That night, the bus took some people to go get dinner together, but we all decided to go see a movie instead. We saw "Knowing" which I did not like very much. Once we got back to the hotel, we hung out for a while before bed.



Tuesday, March 24

CATHREN LEPORI

>> Women Round 2: Minnesota >>

Unfortunately the day of the last game we had to come to terms with the fact that although we were out of town, school was still taking place back in College Station. Many of us, including myself, had exams the days following our return. We spread out all our study materials and made great use of the hotel pub. Later that afternoon, we packed up our bags, got ready for the game, and sent the team off as usual. We went to the arena (where we were able to hang out with Notre Dame's varsity leprechaun) and prepared for the game. After the game we loaded up, made a quick stop at McDonalds, and head to the plane. It ended up being a HUGE plane and most everyone on the plane was able to have their own row. We landed in Houston and finally arrived home at 3 a.m.



BASKETBALL: TEXAS A&M SPORTS INFORMATION/ALL OTHERS: TEXAS A&M DANCE TEAM

Friday, March 27

HEATHER BOERKE

>> Traveling to New Jersey >>

Friday was our traveling day, we took a bus to Hobby Airport and from there flew into a small airport in Trenton. As soon as we checked into our hotel we went out to eat and had an amazing dinner at P.F. Chang's. Later that evening our hotel was hosting a high school prom. In the middle of prom madness we found a small space to practice and got ready for our game.

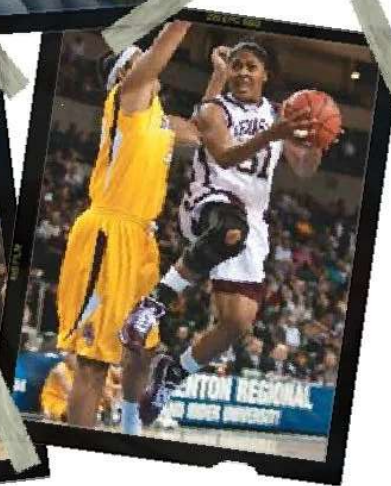


Saturday, March 28

HEATHER BOERKE

>> Sightseeing in New York City >>

We started off the day supporting our Lady Aggies at Fan Fest – an event set up in the arena parking lot to get the fans pumped up for the games. There were different booths with food and games, and all the schools' dance teams, cheerleaders and bands were set to show up throughout the day. We faced off against California. It was like duel of dance teams – 30 minutes of dancing like ten feet away from the other dance team. Slightly awkward but fun. After we left fan fest we got on the bus and headed to NYC! After arriving in New York we stopped and ate lunch and had some delicious New York Pizza. We had a list of things we wanted to do and see once we got there and the first one on our list was Chinatown/Canal Street. We kind of lost track of time while we were there. We were having too much fun spending all the money we had on purses, jewelry, perfume, sun glasses, etc. We finally took the subway back towards Times Square and went and stopped by Central Park. We then made our way over to the famous Plaza Hotel. It is absolutely gorgeous – words can't even describe how beautiful it is. Then we headed over to FAO Schwartz where the big kid in everyone came out. We went and played on the piano, and the girls were having fun looking at the doll houses, Barbies and the Harry Potter section. The yell leaders found the huge Apple Store next door to be a little more interesting. Then we headed back to the heart of Times Square for dinner. After dinner we walked around Times Square and then the bus took the majority back to Trenton. My friend Talia and I chose to stay behind and find our own way back to Trenton because we really wanted to spend a night out on the town in NYC. Turns out, we spent most of the evening trying to figure out the transportation system – we kept running into dead ends and getting advice from people that had no idea what they were talking about. We finally arrived at Penn Station and bought our train tickets to Trenton. Even though the end of the night was a little frustrating, I am so happy we got to spend the day in NYC. It is one of my favorite places ever!



Sunday, March 29

HEATHER BOERKE

>> Women Sweet 16: Arizona State >>

Game Day! We woke up, got ready for the game and headed to the arena. We had time once we got there to go over our dances and take many much-needed pictures. Supporting the Aggies is always a blast. I had been savoring every minute of it, because as a senior, my dance career was coming to an end. The girls put forth a great effort, but it just wasn't in the cards for us to win that game. It was sad to see the season come to an end. I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Aggie Dance Team and will always look back on my college career with fond memories of all the great times and friendships I've made. It has truly been an honor representing our school and supporting our basketball program the past four years. **ATI**

alex WILSON

Fifteen questions for the Aggies' star pitcher

BY JASON MCCONNELL '01

Why did you choose Texas A&M?

When I was looking at schools to transfer to, it was the best fit for me. I wanted to win. I looked at Miami, but there was no way a guy from a one-road town in West Virginia could go to Miami and feel comfortable. I felt comfortable at A&M.

What do you love about Aggie baseball?

I love the strikeouts hanging above the opposing dugout. I love when the crowd is chanting, "ball four, ball five, ball six."

Do you have any superstitions?

I have worn the same shirt underneath my jersey for every game since I was eleven years old. I won't play without it. It is down to its last threads and is skin tight. I had to cut the sleeves off and it is basically transparent now – it is a rag. I am hoping it holds on a little longer.

Are you able to wash it?

Yeah, but I have to wash in my sink at home because I can't put it in a washing machine anymore. It is that bad.

What is your favorite TV show?

Entourage on HBO. I am addicted to it. I own every season and I could sit there and watch the reruns over and over. It is one of those things I can't get enough of.

What is your biggest fear?

My biggest fear is blowing out my arm again. I don't play like it bothers me, but every once in a while it pops up in the back of my mind and I think to myself, "Man, I can't go through that again." I have enough problems sitting between starts, let alone a whole year. And doing the rehab – that was miserable.

What is the first thing you would buy if you had a million dollars?

Probably a new truck. My old Ford Explorer – or the exploder, as I call it – is wearing down a little bit. It has made the cross-country trip four times now – from here to Cap Cod, Massachusetts and back, here to West Virginia and back.

"I have worn the same shirt underneath my jersey since I was eleven years old. It is basically transparent now."

What is your favorite class?

I like my psych of women class. You get to hear their perspective and realize just how crazy they are. It keeps me always thinking and wondering what could happen next.

What is your least favorite class?

Hands down, Math. I am terrible at it. It is like Chinese – I don't understand it at all.

What is your favorite place to eat in BCS?

My favorite restaurant is Atami. Fast food wise is Layne's. I have been hooked on it since the day I got here.

Who is your favorite baseball player?

Nolan Ryan. I love the way he pitched. He was crazy aggressive. He spoke his mind on the field, too, which I think is entertaining.

What major league hitter would you like to pitch to?

Alex Rodriguez. If I am going to get one shot, I am going to go with who is recognized as the best in his time. I would love to do that.

What female celebrity would you most like to meet?

Jessica Beal. That would be awesome.

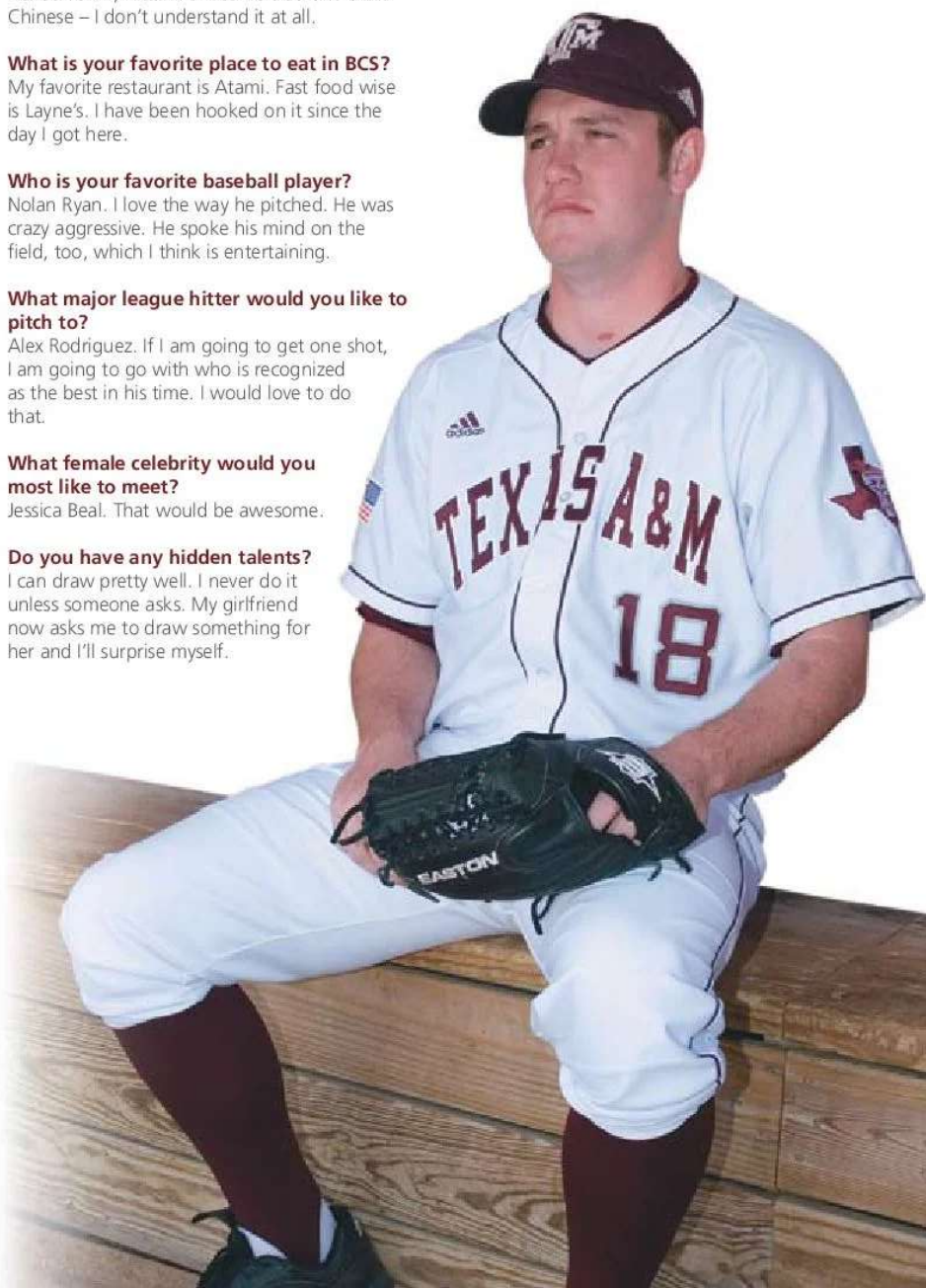
Do you have any hidden talents?

I can draw pretty well. I never do it unless someone asks. My girlfriend now asks me to draw something for her and I'll surprise myself.



What would you like to see happen this season?

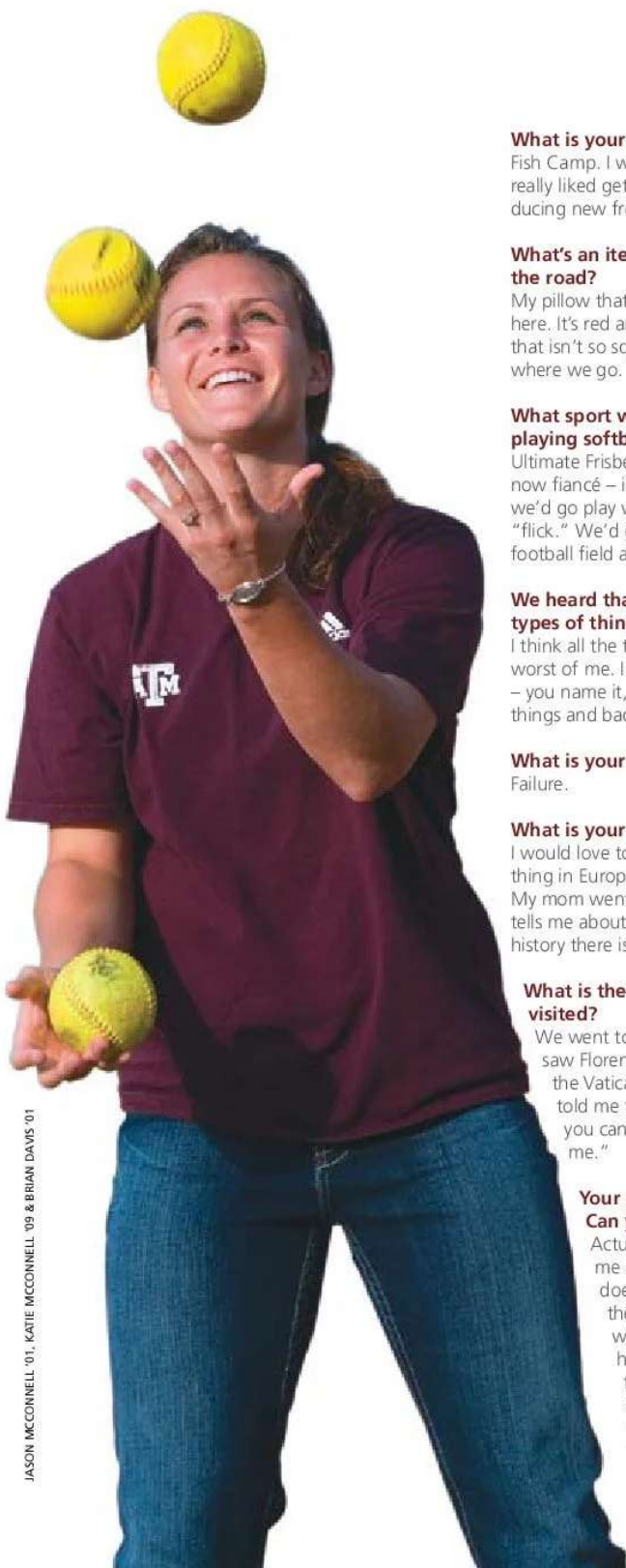
I would like to see us run through the rest of the Big 12, continue on a hot streak and end up on the bottom of a dog pile in Omaha after winning it all. I can't think of a more perfect ending to a college career than that. **AT**



"It was fun to go on 'take your daughter to work' day. I got to shoot some guns and see CSI-type stuff."

holly RIDLEY

Fifteen questions for the Aggies' senior softball star BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04



What is your favorite tradition?

Fish Camp. I was a Fish Camp counselor and I really liked getting to know people and introducing new freshmen to what A&M is about.

What's an item you can't live without on the road?

My pillow that I've had since before I came here. It's red and one of those travel-size pillows that isn't so squishy anymore. I take it everywhere we go.

What sport would you play if you weren't playing softball?

Ultimate Frisbee. My boyfriend at the time – now fiancé – introduced me as a freshman and we'd go play with a group of his friends from "flick." We'd go play at the Consol high school football field at night and it was a lot of fun.

We heard that you are a "thinker." What types of things to you think about?

I think all the time and it gets the best and the worst of me. I think of anything and everything – you name it, I've thought about it. Good things and bad things. Everything.

What is your biggest fear?

Failure.

What is your dream vacation?

I would love to go to Greece and just see everything in Europe, or maybe a backpacking tour. My mom went to high school in Greece and tells me about how beautiful it is and all the history there is phenomenal.

What is the most interesting place you've visited?

We went to Italy and stayed in Rome and saw Florence. My dad stole holy water from the Vatican and put it in a tic-tac bottle. He told me to watch his back. I said, "Dad, you can't do that!" He just said, "watch me."

Your mom has an interesting job. Can you even tell us about that?

Actually my mom doesn't even tell me a lot of things about what she does. Last year she couldn't make the Baylor series and wouldn't say why, and later I found out that she had to be in Washington DC at the time. I never found out why. She's a financial analyst for the FBI. It was fun to go on "take your kid to work" day. I got to shoot some guns and see CSI-type stuff.



What's the first thing you'd buy if you had a million dollars?

Wow, I don't know. I think I'd probably donate it to charity. I always see people in need on the news and tell myself that I wish I had money to help them.

What are your favorite TV shows?

30 Rock and The Office.

What is your favorite class?

Sociology classes are my favorite. I've taken so many classes that I enjoy. I come to practice and talk about what's going on in them.

Do you have any guilty pleasures?

Chocolate, which I gave up for lent. It's been tough. I've been planning what I want to eat when it's over.

Who is the funniest person on the team?

Everyone has their moments. I'd say it's between Taryn (Broussard), Alex (Reynolds) and Erin (Glasco).

What's in store for you after college?

I want to do something that involves helping kids. Or, maybe a psychologist. I kind of went down the wrong academic path here so I'd have to get back on track for that. I'd like to be a marriage or family counselor, too.

What's your favorite thing about being an Aggie?

That I am an Aggie and everything that it represents. When you leave here you're still an Aggie. At other schools, when you leave you get disconnected with the university, but at A&M you're connected forever. **ATI**



AGGIE cribs



Four freshmen members of the Texas A&M equestrian team open their doors to AI BY JASON MCCONNELL '01 & BRIAN DAVIS '01

Welcome to the apartment of Megan, Maggie, Lia and Jackie – all freshmen on the Texas A&M equestrian team.

Megan Webb came to Aggieland from Burlington, West Virginia because of the great team atmosphere. She is an animal science major. From the other side of the country in Fallbrook, California, Maggie Earle, a history major, chose Texas A&M because the team felt like a big family. "I felt a part of it before I was even here."

Lia Chafee and Jackie O'Connell had very similar paths to Aggieland. They have been best friends since the fifth grade and knew all along that they wanted to go to college together. "Going to different schools wasn't an option," Lia adds. The Wakefield, Rhode Island natives searched for universities across the country before choosing Texas A&M for the equestrian team, friendly campus and great academics. They are both general studies majors.



(top) Up first is Jackie's room and she set the bar pretty high for the other girls by leaping on to her bed for a grand entrance. She was quick to show off her "Paint by Numbers" artwork that is proudly displayed on her walls, as well as a collection of seashells from her home in Rhode Island. Jackie is a renowned singer/composer in the shower. She has been riding since she was eleven and her favorite horse is Willis. (bottom) Next door is Lia's room – the "mom" of the group. If you hear someone vacuuming, odds are it's her. Lia admits that she can't do her homework if her room is too messy. She has been riding since she was five and her favorite horse is Charm. Jackie and Lia share a bathroom that is beach-themed to remind them of home. (facing page) For fun, the girls like to play intense games of speed Uno – a game their neighbors taught them.





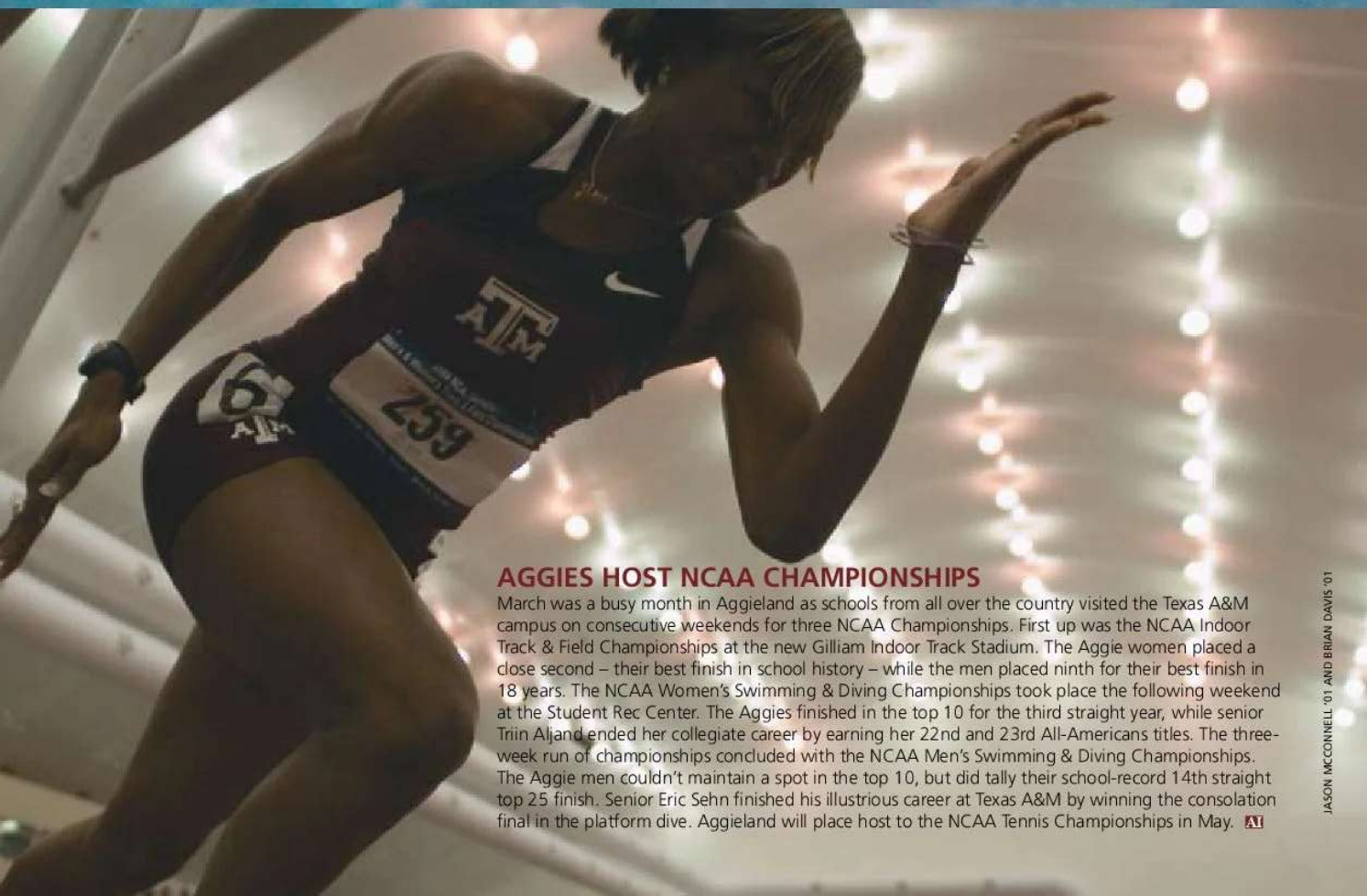
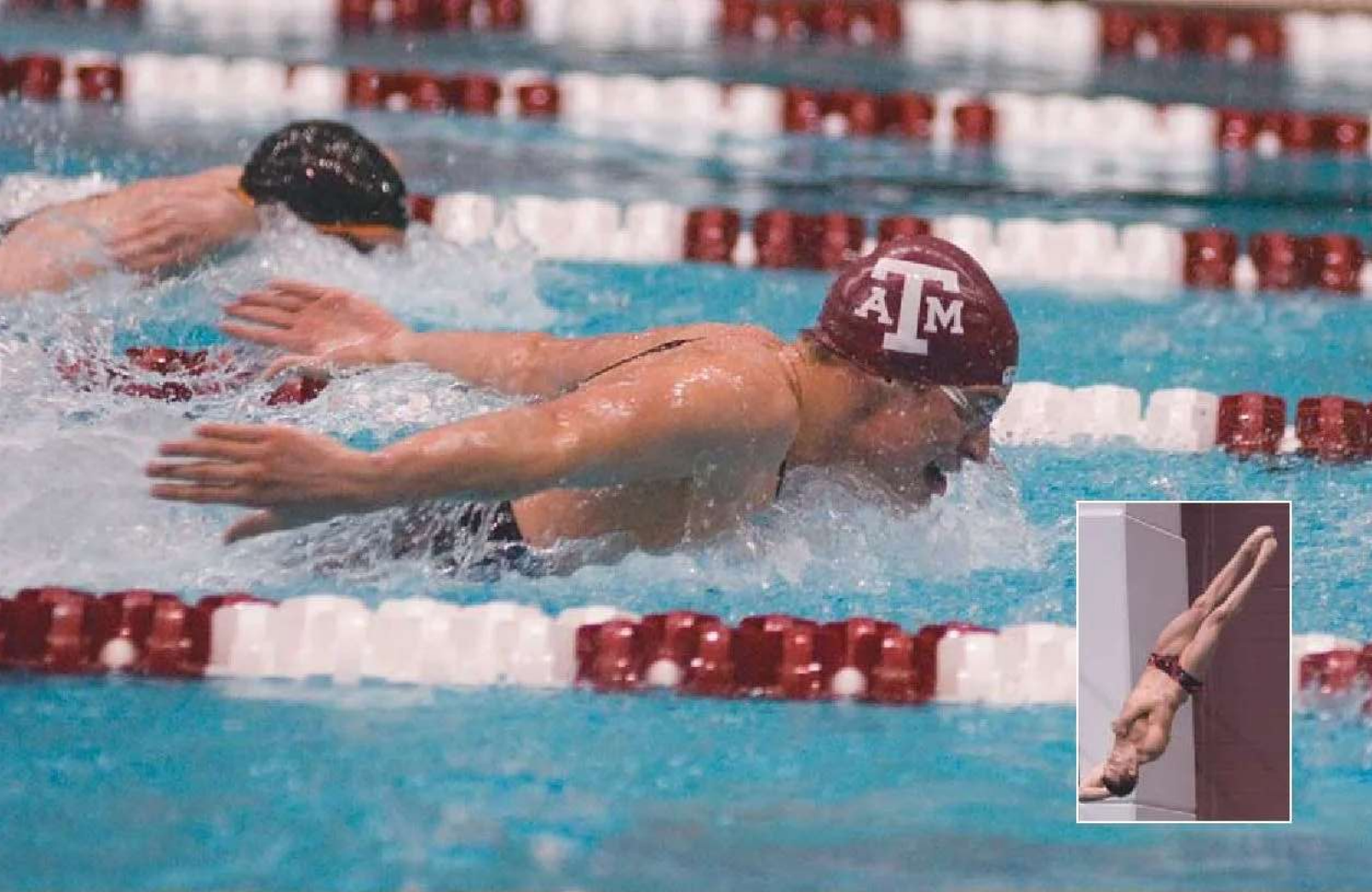
(top) The tour of Megan's room began with the "Farm Fresh" sign on her door, which often ends up in the freezer courtesy of her roommates. She hid her animal science knives in her laundry before we arrived so that she wouldn't look like an axe murderer. Her favorite book is *Dump Him, Marry the Horse!* Megan is the "studier" of the group. She has been riding since she was five and her favorite horses are Belle and Hamlet. (bottom) Next door is Maggie. Her room is usually the messiest, but she cleaned before we arrived (we just couldn't look under her bed). Speaking of her bed, the girls have great fun with dance parties on it. Maggie also showed off her bug collection (that is for a class). She has been riding since she was seven and her favorite horse is Ivan.





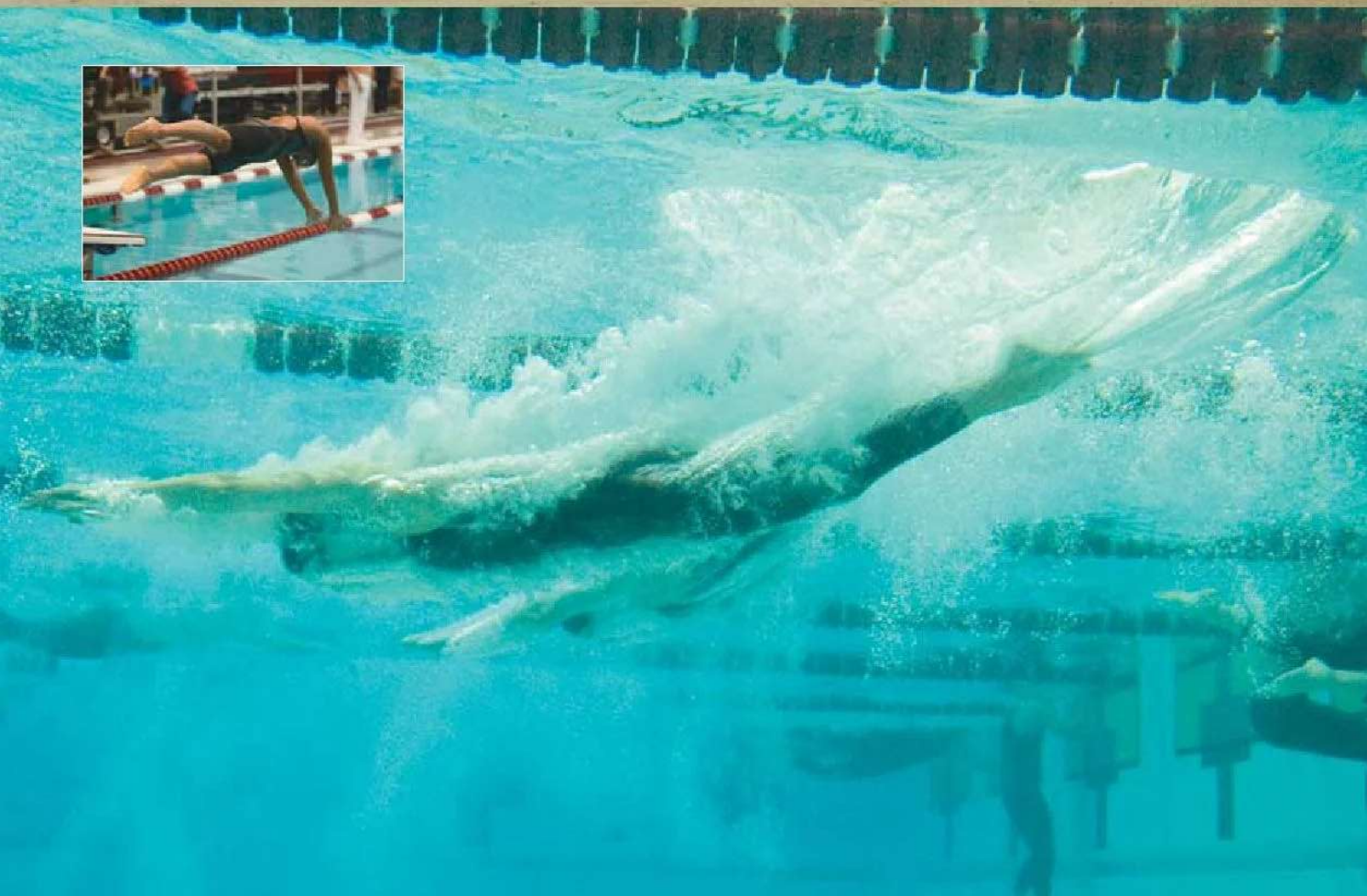
If you are down the hall and hear a lot of noise coming from the girls' apartment, there's likely an intense game of Wii MarioKart in progress. Whoever is watching roots against Maggie because she usually wins. In fact, even if they tie, Maggie wins. Each girl has a specific character they play with - Maggie is Peach, Lia is Yoshi, Jackie is Bosh and Megan is Rosalina. **AI**





AGGIES HOST NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

March was a busy month in Aggieland as schools from all over the country visited the Texas A&M campus on consecutive weekends for three NCAA Championships. First up was the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships at the new Gilliam Indoor Track Stadium. The Aggie women placed a close second – their best finish in school history – while the men placed ninth for their best finish in 18 years. The NCAA Women's Swimming & Diving Championships took place the following weekend at the Student Rec Center. The Aggies finished in the top 10 for the third straight year, while senior Triin Aljand ended her collegiate career by earning her 22nd and 23rd All-Americans titles. The three-week run of championships concluded with the NCAA Men's Swimming & Diving Championships. The Aggie men couldn't maintain a spot in the top 10, but did tally their school-record 14th straight top 25 finish. Senior Eric Sehn finished his illustrious career at Texas A&M by winning the consolation final in the platform dive. Aggieland will place host to the NCAA Tennis Championships in May. [ATM](#)



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

BRANDON HICKS

BY STEVE HUNT

Just two springs ago, Brandon Hicks was corralling every ground ball that came his way on the left side of the Aggie infield. In 2007, Hicks, who transferred to Texas A&M after a two-year stint at San Jacinto Junior College, hit .338 with 10 HR and 59 RBI and was a key addition to a team that won the 2007 Big 12 Tournament title.

After the season, Hicks was selected by Atlanta in the third round of the June '07 amateur draft. The Houston native quickly signed and reported to the Braves' rookie-level affiliate in Danville, Virginia.

Despite a very short stay in Aggieland, Hicks still has great memories of his time at A&M.

"Going to A&M prepared me for the next level," he said. "I really enjoyed the coaching staff and the guys I played with."

Hicks credits his decision to come to A&M to the coaching staff and the tradition of Aggie baseball.

"Playing at Olsen Field was awesome. Those fans come out every night and get into the game. It just makes the whole experience of playing there that much more fun."

The highlight of Hicks' career in maroon and white was winning the Big 12



Tournament Championship.

"That was a great experience for us to go through after all the work we put in during the fall and springtime. To be rewarded in that circumstance, to come together, to get into that dog pile and to play in a regional was incredible."

Following a stellar year with the Aggies, things fell into place when the Braves drafted him in the third round.

"I had talked to them the day before the draft and knew they were in the picture," Hicks said. "I was happy with the way that it went and that an organization like the Braves picked me up and gave me a chance to play."

His first stop was the rookie-level Appalachian League.

"The biggest adjustment was the everyday grind of getting your body ready to go out there and play," he admits. "Unlike college, we played four days a week."

After 13 games in Danville, Hicks finished 2007 at Rome – the Braves' Low Single-A affiliate in the South Atlantic League. In 2008, Hicks split time between High Single-A Myrtle Beach and Double-A Mississippi.

This spring, he found himself in big-league camp for the first time as a non-roster player.

"It's been fun so far and I've enjoyed being around guys like Chipper Jones, Brian McCann and Jeff Francoeur," Hicks said. "It's great to watch them to see how they do their things and go about their business."

Hicks will likely start 2009 back in the Double-A Southern League with the Mississippi Braves, but no matter where he plays, his goals remain simple.

"I just want to be consistent," he said. "All those guys who are above me at the major league level, they all have experience and are consistent. Getting that experience and trying to be more consistent throughout the whole season is what I want to do because it's a long year." **A**

"Those fans come out every night and get into the game. It just makes the whole experience of playing there that much more fun."



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

WINSTON CRITE

BY STEVE HUNT

Over two decades since he played his last game at A&M, Winston Crite's name remains large in Aggie basketball. Between 1983 and 1987, he earned All-Southwest Conference honors four times and helped lead the Ags to the '87 NCAA Tournament as the SWC Tournament MVP, his most memorable collegiate moment.

Crite then spent two seasons with the NBA's Phoenix Suns, and played in Australia and Europe before hanging his sneakers up for good. He now runs The Footwork Shop, Inc. in Bakersfield, CA, which helps develop young players.

"Texas A&M was a wonderful experience," he said. "For my family, it was a big deal because no one had gone to a Division I school or a major university until me. It was great because I was able to play right away and I had a pretty good career."

Other than helping lead his team to the Big Dance, another big highlight was playing for legendary coach Shelby Metcalf.

"On the court, he justified my belief that if I worked hard enough, I would be

"A lot of kids look at me and ask me where I went. I tell them I went to Texas A&M, one of the best schools in the country."

given an opportunity to play," he said. "Off the court, he was quiet and reserved until he went to a luncheon. He believed in me as a person and a player."

In 1987, the Suns drafted him in the third round.

"I didn't feel like I got what I really wanted out of the NBA," he admits. "The Suns were a loaded team at the time and were getting ready to make a few runs at the Western Conference championship, so it was tough to make a dent in that system at the time. I made up for it when I went overseas because I had a lot of fun playing over there."

Crite may have had a short tenure in the NBA, but getting there validated what he had always known – that he could play with the best.

"I was able to tell my mom and dad that I did it and they were able to see me play," he said. "Just to be able to reach that level and to perform was tremendous."

Crite draws from all that experience when working with young players at his facility.

"The most challenging thing is finding out how I can help a young student-athlete," he admits. "I look at what they bring mentally to the table and work with them there."

Crite uses the work habits he learned in basketball and in business to teach the kids and help them get their life in order.

"We need to take time to sit down with them, show them things and be patient," he adds. "I've had a lot of success with the kids that I have worked with and several have gone on to get scholarships."

Despite being in California, Crite still keeps up with Aggie basketball and has been impressed with the transformation of the program.

"Basketball was second fiddle when I was there and sometimes I'm not sure if it was even that," he admits. "But what's being done there now as far as building a national powerhouse is tremendous and makes me proud. Coach Turgeon has great defensive schemes and seems to be concerned with more than just winning games. He also wants to develop the players and I think that's critical."

Even though he didn't graduate from A&M, Crite is as proud an Aggie as you will find.

"A lot of kids look at me and ask me where I went," he said. "I tell them I went to Texas A&M, one of the best schools in the country." **AI**





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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT
SPRING FOOTBALL PRACTICE

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

1 CORNERBACKS WANTED

There's good news and bad news at corner. The bad news is that the Aggies are paper thin at the position with less than a handful of able bodies going through spring drills. The good news is that freshman Terrence Frederick continues to build upon his impressive fall campaign and emerging as a lock down corner. Who will start opposite T-Fred probably won't be determined until the fall.

**2 CAN'T MISS**

From the moment you see him, even the casual observer can assume that **Jeff Fuller** is one of the most gifted athletes on the football field. After a few reps, assumptions become reality. Day in and day out, Fuller never disappoints, hauling in spectacular catches and touchdowns on a routine basis.

**3 QUARTERBACK COMPETITION**

The Aggies started the spring with an open audition to find a starting quarterback. Unfortunately, a shoulder injury to redshirt freshman Ryan Tannehill reduced the size of the pool for the casting call. Sophomore **Jerrod Johnson** and freshman Tommy Dorman haven't capitalized on Tannehill's absence thus far, as neither signal caller has been particularly consistent thus far.

**4 RYAN "YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD PLAYER DOWN" TANNEHILL**

Though he hasn't been able to participate much as a quarterback, Tannehill has seen limited time as a receiver, where he continues to look outstanding. While he'll get another crack at quarterback in the fall, the workout warrior and gifted athlete has been too talented to keep off the field. Simply put, when Tannehill is competing, the entire team is better for it.

**5 ALL-BIG 12 MCCOY**

One thing is for certain, junior Jamie McCoy is going to make a strong case for Big 12 honors if his senior campaign is anything similar to this spring's workouts. McCoy has cemented his status as the go-to target in the middle of the field. Freshman K.J. Williams passes the eyeball test, but is still on a very steep learning curve.

**6 GETTING A LEG UP ON C-MIKE**

Unfortunately, the Ags suffered a bit of attrition when junior back Keondra Smith decided to hang up his cleats. In his absence, freshmen **Cyrus Gray**, **Bradley Stephens** and **Jay Tolliver** have battled to get the majority of reps with the first team unit. While Gray is the odds-on favorite to win the starting nod, each of the young backs have attempted to make the most of their opportunities to impress the coaches before heralded Christine Michael arrives this fall.

7 THE "JACK"

In an attempt to find a more natural fit for several of the Aggie defenders stuck between the molds of an outside linebacker and defensive end, Mike Sherman and Joe Kines created the new "Jack" position, which will allow players to have the best of both worlds. Sophomore Von Miller runs with the first team unit at the new position and has proceeded to wreak havoc in the backfield thus far. So far, it looks like the creation of the position and the move for Miller is going to pay huge dividends.

8 THE NEXT BIG THING

Next to Miller is his former DeSoto teammate and fellow defensive lineman Tony Jerod-Eddie. While his consistency is still a work in progress, Jerod-Eddie's upside is as high as anyone's on the A&M roster. Once he put the puzzle pieces together on how to engage the on-off switch at will – watch out.

9 THE O-LINE SHUFFLE

"Work in Progress" doesn't even begin to describe the Aggie offensive line. With half of the unit sidelined with injuries and the other half shuffling positions daily, it's clear that the Aggie coaches are trying to shift through as many scenarios as possible to help prepare them for decisions to make in the fall. If you're looking for encouragement this spring, this wouldn't be the first place to look. But keep an eye on true freshman **Brian Thomas**. The talented tackle nearly lost his redshirt last season.

10 MANGAN'S MOVE

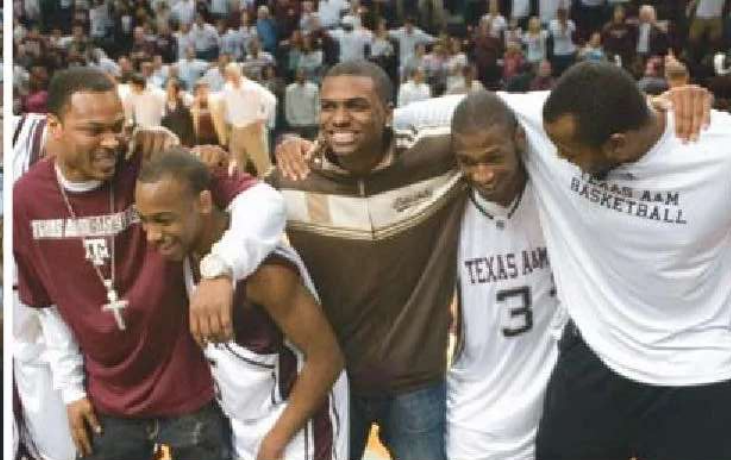
Like the cornerbacks, the Aggie linebacking corps is in desperate need of more bodies to arrive this fall. Fortunately, help is on the way. Until then, redshirt freshman Garrick Williams, true freshman Ricky Cavanaugh, junior Anthony Lewis and true freshman **Kyle Mangan** continue to battle for first team action. Mangan made the move to linebacker from fullback this spring, and has been particularly impressive with his natural instincts and quick reads.

11 WHERE'S WALDO

Several players have been difficult to locate this spring due to position changes. For example, freshman safety Keon Furtch moved to tight end, sophomore cornerback Lionel Smith moved to receiver and sophomore linebacker Cole Graybill slid over to fullback. While the moves aren't necessarily permanent, they have made players difficult to locate from practice to practice.

12 THE CLASS OF 2010

The Aggie coaching staff has done an outstanding job of using spring practice as a valuable tool on the recruiting trail. Nearly every practice features top recruits from across Texas and/or Louisiana. The result? Fourteen commitments and counting. **AY**



(top left) Texas A&M students rush the court in celebration of the Aggies' victory over Missouri. (top right) Former A&M basketball stars Antoine Wright, Dominique Kirk and Joseph Jones join Dash Harris and Derrick Roland for the Aggie War Hymn after the Texas game. (above left) Two members of the Hullabaloo Band do their best to entertain the crowd during a timeout. (above middle) Former President George Bush takes in the Aggies' basketball game against Missouri, while Congressman Chet Edwards enjoys a Sunday afternoon at Olsen Field. (above right) These young Aggies celebrate the men's basketball victory over Texas. (below left) The 12th Man was out in full force for the men's basketball game against Texas. (bottom left) The Cougars softball team salutes the flag during the Star-Spangled Banner before the Aggies take the field. (bottom right) Aggie dancers fly through the air during their halftime routine.





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More than 150 athletes participated in The Big Event this March – the largest, one-day, student-run service project in the nation. As representatives of Aggie Athletes Involved, the athletes participated in nine projects, including landscaping at St. Mary's Catholic Center and cleaning up the grounds surrounding the lake at the Bryan Municipal Golf Course. With the exception of a few excused absences, the entire football team participated this year.



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NOT ACCORDING TO PLAN

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

When Carolyn '84 and Buckey '83 Turk started selling and renting computers on the side out of their home in the early 90s, the goal was to earn an extra \$500 per month to make ends meet. What they have nearly 16 years later is MacResource – a multi-faceted, multi-million dollar business.

A graduate of Del Rio high school, Buckey wanted to study geophysics at either the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology or Texas A&M. He was advised to stay in state for at least the first two years to avoid paying out of state tuition and A&M had offered him a geophysics scholarship.

"A&M called in June or July and asked if I was going to accept the scholarship or if they could offer it to someone else," Buckey said. "I literally put my hand over the phone, discussed it with my dad and decided to say yes – why not."

Carolyn (Harwell) came to Texas A&M from San Antonio despite growing up in a Longhorn-favored home.

"At first I didn't think I could live in a small town like College Station," she admits. "Then I never left. I started in accounting, wound up with a horticulture degree and ended up in the computer business."

The two met while working for Preregistration during Buckey's last semester. They sat next to each other pulling punch cards. Two years later they got married.

"After we got married, my grandfather asked when we were moving to Austin," Carolyn said. "I told him, as soon as they move that school out of town. He quickly realized that was a lost cause."

Their venture into the computer business started in the early 1990s when Buckey wanted a Macintosh computer. He was managing the undergraduate labs in the Civil Engineering department at A&M. The job didn't take much of his time and boredom set in. So he started buying one computer at a time over the phone. After work, he would drive to Dallas, Houston or Austin



to pick it up. That meant getting back home at two or three in the morning.

"Sometimes I would send one of the kids along to keep him awake," Carolyn recalls. "Looking back, that probably wasn't the best idea."

There wasn't a business plan to speak of. The main goals were to stay out of debt and find new markets to sell to. They did have an idea to rent computers to students because not everyone had a computer back then.

"I thought it would be great," Buckey admits. "About six months in, that became a small part of our business and a large part of our headaches. We quit doing it altogether within the first year."

They went from buying one computer to going to auctions to buying off-lease equipment and eventually becoming Apple certified to sell new equipment and provide service. It took five diligent years working with Apple to become the official reseller for Texas A&M. The business that began in their home quickly grew to a garage apartment behind their house to their first storefront location on South College in Bryan. After six years, they moved to their current location on Texas Ave. in Bryan. MacResource has been there for four years and plans to open an additional location near, or hopefully on the A&M campus eventually.

There are four main pieces to their business: new educational sales, which includes institutional and individual sales; new non-educational sales, which is primarily local, non-students; refurbished sales, which is almost exclusively online buyers in the U.S. and Canada; and Apple Certified Service.

"The business has changed quite a bit over the years," Buckey explains. "In the late 90s, people were wondering if Apple was going out of business. Now they have the hottest products. Like us, they've stayed out of debt. The auctions of old have disappeared. Now we are Apple's biggest buyer of customer returns. And we're trying to reach a new market – the 70 percent of students who buy a computer before they come to Texas A&M. We want them to know the educational discounts we can offer."

Carolyn and Buckey have remained close to Texas A&M outside of the business world as well. They have two daughters enrolled already – classes of 09 and 12 – and another daughter who is a junior in high school could be there soon. They also have a passion for Aggie athletics, thanks to Buckey's upbringing and their oldest daughter.

Buckey is the son of a high school football coach, so sports have always been a part of his life. As a student, he was really involved



with A&M football and basketball games. Shelby Metcalf's wife even made him cookies one time.

"My claim to fame happened in 1982," Buckey proclaims. "Shelby came by one day and was telling us about some good natured harassing that Razorback students had done to our team at a game in Arkansas. They were coming to play us and he suggested that some retaliation might be in order. We (being me and three other people) used to sit at one of the entrances to G. Rollie to get center court seats. Before the game, we went over to the MSC and gathered up a bunch of the Battalions and distributed them to all the students. And the tradition of holding up the newspapers during the visiting team's introductions was born."

Not nearly the sports fanatic like her husband, Carolyn started going to women's basketball games when their oldest daughter joined the Hullabaloo Band.

"At first, I would only go to the games when she was playing," Carolyn admits. "Then, I got to the point where I wasn't sure if she played or not."

After the first year, she wrote a note to Coach Blair saying, "I came for the band and fell in love with the team."

They have been loyal followers of the program ever since, rarely missing a game while traveling with the team to every tournament game they can.

"You just get sucked into it," Carolyn admits. "Plus, it gets Buckey away from work."

Their love for A&M and Aggie athletics is apparent as soon as you walk through the doors at MacResource. Carolyn jokes that they need to build more walls. Not for additional rooms, but for more places to hang Aggie memorabilia.

They have a wide range of items including pieces of the original benches of Kyle Field (below, left) and an original movie poster of "We've Never Been Licked" from 1943. But Buckey's two most-prized collections would make just about any Aggie envious. Hanging in his office is the one-and-only original painting of "The Shot," autographed by Acie Law IV (below, right). The other is a complete set of Texas A&M yearbooks including the Olio – the yearbook from 1894.

They are also proud owners of four Aggie 100 awards recognizing their business as one of the top 100 fastest-growing Aggie-owned businesses in the world. They have earned the award each year since 2005 and hope to make it five in a row this year.

"The Aggie 100 is the coolest thing we could earn from A&M," Carolyn said. "It's very special to us."




Quite an accomplishment for what started as a simple side business out of Carolyn and Buckey's home. **A**




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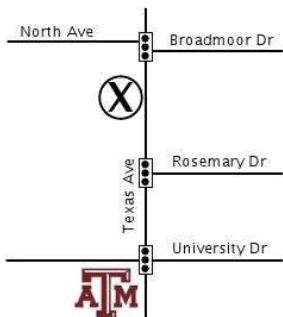
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